# HF Happenings 867

**September**
30 - Rosh Hashana

**October**
1 – Provincial schools open (*and parents rejoice*)
3 – SARL 80 m QSO Party
5 – AWA AM Valve QSO Party
6 – AWA SSB Valve QSO Party; RSGB DX Contest
12 – Spring QRP Contest
18 to 20 – Jamboree on the Air
19 – RAE and CQ Hou Koers
19 and 20 – Worked all Germany contest
26 and 27 – CQ WW DX SSB Contest

## The SOTA 2020 (and beyond) 'Flavours' Challenge

A series of themed challenges will take place in 2020, as part of the SOTA - Summits on The Air awards programme. The idea is to encourage SOTA activity on bands and modes that are popular in amateur radio generally, but somewhat under-represented in SOTA.

**The SOTA 'Flavours' Challenge 2020**
1 to 7 January 2020: LF - 160 m and 80 m
1 to 7 February 2020: Data modes
1 to 7 March 2020: Digital voice
1 to 7 April 2020: LF - 160 m and 80 m
1 to 7 May 2020: Data modes
1 to 7 June 2020: 12 m, 10 m and 6 m
1 to 7 July 2020: 70 cm
1 to 7 Aug 2020: 17 m
1 to 7 Sept 2020: Data modes
1 to 7 Oct 2020: Digital voice
1 to 7 Nov 2020: LF - 160 m and 80 m
1 to 7 Dec 2020: 12 m, 10 m and 6 m

**Scoring:**

Activators: Number of unique QSO partners worked multiplied by the number of unique summits activated.

Chasers: Number of unique activators worked multiplied by the number of unique summits worked.

Only QSOs made on the nominated band or mode, on the dates specified, will count towards Challenge scores.

To take part in the "Flavours" Challenge, simply enter your activator and chaser logs into the SOTA Database as normal.

**Background/further information:**

There has not been a SOTA Challenge for several years. Like in the past we want to encourage use of parts of the spectrum, and operating modes that are generally less represented in SOTA, but keen to maximise participation by making the Challenge both diverse and inclusive.

The first seven days of each month will be "Challenge Days". This guarantees that there is no bias towards weekday or weekend days, and also ensures that the majority of each month will see a more "normal" distribution of SOTA operating.

There may be one or two "Flavours" in the schedule that are not of interest or not available to individual participants. This "unique x unique" scoring algorithm will mean missing one or two "Flavours" out should not be hugely detrimental to your score in comparison to other participants. Nonetheless, the spirit of the Challenge is to encourage activators and chasers to try something new!

Towards the end of 2020, we will review the Challenge and determine the 12 "Flavours" for 2021. It is thought unlikely that any year would have exactly the same schedule of "Flavours" as the previous, but this schedule will always be decided and published in advance.

## African DX

*Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award (www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp)*

Somalia, 6O. Ali, EP3CQ, is once again active as 6O1OO until 6 October. Activity will be limited to his spare time because he works for the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in Mogadishu. Operations are usually on 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 10 metres (mostly on 40/20 metres FT8) using CW and FT8. Also, effective as of 11 February 2019, the call sign, 6O1OO, has been accepted for DXCC credit. QSL direct to Ali Solhjoo, Schnackenburgstr. 3, Berlin 12159, Germany. QSL cards will be replied to on a bi-monthly basis. IRC's are not accepted. See QRZ.com for more info and picture of his station. Flash news will be posted via Twitter: @ep3cq

Tanzania, 5H. Maurizio, IK2GZU, has once again returned to "Mission Ilembula" to do some work at the new hospital and orphanage until 28 October. He plans to be active during his spare time as 5H3MB on various HF bands. Maurizio will use his FT-100 and the mission's TS-850 into a tri-band 3 element beam (20, 15 and 10 m) fixed on Europe and a vertical or dipole for the other bands. QSL via IK2GZU, direct or by the Bureau. Also, QSL via LoTW (after his return home) and eQSL. For more details, updates and an online log, visit his Web pages at www.buffoli-pm.it/5h/Tanzania%202011.htm and www.buffoli-pm.it/5h/qsl%20request.htm

## African Islands
IOTA Frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Seychelles, S7. Leszek, SP6CIK and Janusz, SP9FIH will be active as S79CI and S79W, respectively, from Seychelles between 18 and 29 October. Activity will be on various HF band, including activity in CQ WW DX SSB Contest (26 and 27 October). QSL via their home call signs or ClubLog's OQRS. For more details and updates, watch http://s79.dxpeditions.org

## Fiberglass mast and clamp kits

DX Engineering is promoting their fiberglass mast and clamp kits for "fast deployment, easy transport and reliable performance of temporary and portable antenna masts." There are various lengths available between 15 feet to 46 feet (4,5 to 14 m), which stow to either 4 or 7,5 feet (1,2 or 2,28 m). According to their website, setup is quick and easy with their cam-lock clamps. https://www.dxengineering.com/search/product-line/dx-engineering-complete-fiberglass-tubing-and-cam-lock-clamp-kits?autoview=SKU&sortby=BestKeywordMatch&sortorder=Ascending

## Eye care

Today's radio contesting by nature requires using your eyes to stare at computer screens for extended periods of time. Scott, K0MD tweeted a link to a Cleveland Clinic article about how some simple techniques can help protect your vision over time. One suggestion for screen users: Look 20 feet (6 m) away from your screen for 20 seconds every 20 minutes. https://health.clevelandclinic.org/4-good-habits-for-healthy-vision/?utm_campaign=cc%20tweets&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_content=190911%20vision&cvosrc=social%20network.twitter.cc%20tweets&cvo_creative=190911%20vision.

## Word to the Wise

Pultrusion. Noun. The process used to make an item by "drawing resin-coated glass fibres through a heated die." Tubing and masts made this way may use different types of fibre and resins to get the desired material characteristics. The word "pultrusion" was coined between 1944 and 1952. "Pultruded" is the adjective describing an item made using the pultrusion process.

## YCCC 9 circle HI-Z preamp redesign

Steve, VE6WZ, has produced and shared a new receiving antenna video, "Today I uploaded a YouTube video showing my YCCC 9 circle HI-Z preamp redesign that uses a relay to ground the vertical during transmit, or when not in use. I provide a link to the Kicad PCB files that can be uploaded to your favourite PCB manufacturer if you want to build your own. I also provide a BOM parts list detailing the parts needed. Total cost per amp including the PCB board, enclosure and all parts is between $20 - $30 depending on bulk component purchasing discounts. Construction and installation methods and ideas are also discussed." https://youtu.be/dl-crM5Kb6A%20%3chttps:/youtu.be/dl-crM5Kb6A%3e

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 30 September to 7 October 2019

QCX Challenge
13:00 - 14:00 UTC 30 September and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 30 September and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 1 October
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op
Max power: HP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and rig
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with QCX station; 1 point per QSO with non-QCX station
Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 3 October 2019
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.qrp-labs.com/party.html

IQRP Quarterly Marathon
08:00 UTC 1 October to 20:00 UTC 7 October
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB, Digital
Bands: All
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 5 W
Exchange: RS(T)
Work stations: Once per mode
QSO Points: 3 points per CW QSO; 2 points per SSB QSO; 1 point per digital QSO
Multipliers: km/100 of QSO with maximum distance
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x distance mult
Submit logs by: 21 October 2019
E-mail logs to: iqrpclub@arimontebelluna.it
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.arimontebelluna.it/news/news_maratona_uk.htm

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 2 October
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 4 October 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC 2 October and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 2 October and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 3 October
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 5 October 2019
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/

UKEICC 80 m Contest
20:00 - 21:00 UTC 2 October
Geographic Focus: Europe
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op Connected - QRP, low or high; Single Op Unconnected - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: 4-Character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km (10 pts max); multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 2 October 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: http://logs.ukeicc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.ukeicc.com/which-contest/which-contest-ukeicc-80 m-contests-rules

German Telegraphy Contest
07:00 UTC-10:00 UTC 3 October
Geographic Focus: Germany
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; SWL
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: DL: RST and LDK; non-DL: RST
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 2 points per QSO with club station of sponsoring club (see rules)
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 17 October 2019
E-mail logs to: dtc@agcw.de
Upload log at: http://contest.agcw.de/dtc/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.agcw.org/index.php/en/contests-and-cw-activities/german-telegraphy-contest-dtc

SARL 80 m QSO Party
17:00 - 20:00 UTC 3 October
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op
Exchange: Call sign, RS signal report and operator's name.
QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with South African station; 15 points per QSO with non-South African station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 10 October 2019
E-mail logs to: zs5lp@vodamail.co.za
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/DoDo

cDownload.aspx?X=201812141215058LWc1oCc5X.PDF

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest
17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW) and 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (Dig) 3 October
Geographic Focus: Nordic Europe
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 17 October 2019
Upload log at:
http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html

SKCC Sprint Europe
19:00 - 21:00 UTC 3 October
Geographic Focus: Europe
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 10 October 2019
E-mail log summary to: (none)
Post log summary at:
www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/skse/submit-display.php?submit_id=165
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/skse/

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 4 October
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 6 October 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.ncccsprInternationalcom/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 October
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 6 October 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.ncccsprInternationalcom/rules.html

TRC DX Contest
06:00 UTC 5 October to 18:00 UTC 6 October
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - CW, SSB or mixed-low or high; Single Op All Band QRP; Single Op 3 Band; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single
Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W; QRP: 5 W
Exchange: TRC Members: RST, serial no and "TRC"; non-TRC Members: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per mode per band
QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with TRC member; 1 point per QSO with same continent; 2 points per QSO with different continent; 1 point per QSO between TRC members

Multipliers: Each TRC member country once per band per mode; Each country once per band per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 13 October 2019
E-mail logs to: trcdxc@trcdx.org
Upload log at:
http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en
Mail logs to: Atanas Kolev, PO Box 49, 6100 Kazanlak, Bulgaria
Find rules at: www.trcdx.org/trcdxc/index.html

Oceania DX Phone Contest
08:00 UTC 5 October to 08:00 UTC 6 October
Geographic Focus: Oceania
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: Phone
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high; Multi-One; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi; SWL
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: RS and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 20 points per 160 m QSO; 10 points per 80 m QSO; 5 points per 40 m QSO; 1 point per 20 m QSO; 2 points per 15 m QSO; 3 points per 10 m QSO; 0 points per QSO between two non-OC stations
Multipliers: Each prefix once per band; Non-OC prefixes do not count as mults for non-OC stations
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 October 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: www.b4h.net/ocdx/
Web-to-Cabrillo form:
www.b4h.net/cabforms/oceaniadxssb_cab.php
Mail logs to: Oceania DX Contest, PO Box 21088, Little Lonsdale Street, Victoria 8011, Australia
Find rules at:
www.oceaniadxcontest.com/Rules/rules.html

Russian WW Digital Contest
12:00 UTC 5 October to 11:59 UTC 6 October
Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide
Mode: BPSK63, RTTY
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Bands – QRP or high;
Single Op All Bands Junior; Single Op Low
Bands; Single Op High Bands; Single Op RTTY;
Single Op BPSK; Multi-One; Multi-One Junior
Max power: HP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: UA: RST(Q) and 2-character oblast
code; non-UA: RST(Q) and QSO no
Work stations: Once per band per mode (see
rules)
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per mode
per band; Each oblast once per mode per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO
points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 11 October 2019
E-mail logs to: rusww@rdrclub.ru
Upload log at:
http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=e
n
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.rdrclub.ru/rdrc-
news/russian-ww-digital-contest/51-rus-ww-
digi-rules

YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest
14:00 UTC 5 October to 02:00 UTC 7 October
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW/Digital, SSB, Separate logs for each
mode
Bands: All, except WARC
Classes: (none)
Max operating hours: 24
Exchange: Serial no, RS(T) and ARRL Section,
province or country
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: W/VE Stations: 1 point per W/VE
QSO; W/VE Stations: 2 points per DX QSO; DX
Stations: 1 point per QSO with same continent;
DX Stations: 2 points per QSO with different
continent
Multipliers: Each section, province, country
once per mode; Power factor: x 1,5 for 5 - 100
W; Power factor: x 3 for 5 W or less
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO
points x total mults x power factor
Submit logs by: 5 November 2019
E-mail logs to: vp@ylrl.org

Mail logs to: Barbara Yasson, AC7UH, 13205 NE
5th Ave., Vancouver, WA 98685, USA
Find rules at: https://ylrl.org/wp/dx-na-yl-
contest/

California QSO Party
16:00 UTC 5 October to 22:00 UTC 6 October
Geographic Focus: United States/Canada
state/province QSO party
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, Phone
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high fixed,
county exped, multi-county exped, mobile,
school, YL, youth or new-contester; Single Op
Assisted - QRP, low or high fixed, county
exped, multi-county exped, mobile, school, YL,
youth or new-contester; Multi-Single - QRP,
low or high fixed, county exped, multi-county
exped, mobile, school, YL, youth or new-
contester; Multi-Multi - QRP, low or high fixed,
county exped, multi-county exped, mobile,
school, YL, youth or new-contester)
Max operating hours: 24 hours for single ops
with 15 minutes off times; 30 hours for multi-
ops
Max power: HP: >200 watts; LP: 200 watts;
QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: CA: Serial no and County; non-CA:
Serial no and state, VE area or DX
Work stations: Once per mode per band per
county
QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO; 3 points
per CW QSO
Multipliers: CA Stations: States, VE areas once;
non-CA Stations: CA counties once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO
points x total mults
Submit logs by: 21 October 2019
E-mail logs to: (see rules, web upload
preferred)
Upload log at:
http://robot.cqp.org/cqp/logsubmit-form.html
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.cqp.org/Rules.html

International HELL-Contest
16:00 - 18:00 UTC 5 October (80 m) and 09:00 -
11:00 UTC 6 October (40 m)
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide

Mode: Hell
Bands: 80, 40 m
Classes: Single Op; SWL
Exchange: RST and QSO no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 1 point per QTC
Multipliers: Each WAE/DXCC country once; Each JA/W/VE call area once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points and total QTC points) x total mults
Submit logs by: 20 October 2019
E-mail logs to: DARC-Hell-Contest@mail.de
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/hell-contest/ausschreibung/

FISTS Fall Slow Speed Sprint
17:00 - 21:00 UTC 5 October
Geographic Focus: United States/Canada
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: United States/Canada
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: QRP; QRO; Club
Max power: QRO: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and FISTS no; non-FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with FIST member; FIST members: 2 points per QSO with non-FIST member
Multipliers: Each US state and VE province once; Each DXCC country once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 19 October 2019
E-mail logs to: w2dab@fistsna.org
Mail logs to: FISTS Sprint Log, c/o Dave Bamford W2DAB, 444 East 75 Street, 16F, New York, NY 10021, USA
Find rules at:
https://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints

SKCC QSO Party
18:00 UTC 5 October to 18:00 UTC 6 October
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW

Bands: All, except WARC
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single - QRP, low or high; Unlimited - QRP, low or high
Max operating hours: 24
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and 4-Character Grid Square
Work stations: Once per band, QSO with same station in different grid square allowed
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each grid square once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 13 October 2019
Post log summary at:
www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/QSO_Party/submit-display.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/QSO_Party/

RSGB DX Contest
05:00 - 23:00 UTC 6 October
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - 12 or 18 - QRP, low or high- CW, SSB or mixed; Single Op Assisted - 12 or 18 - QRP, low or high- CW, SSB or mixed; Multi-Op - CW, SSB or mixed
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: UK Stations: Each DXCC country once per band per mode (JA, W, VE, VK, ZL and ZS call areas count as countries); Overseas Stations: Each UK prefix once per band per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 11 October 2019
Upload log at: www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:
www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2019/rOctoberDX.shtml

UBA ON SSB Contest
06:00 - 09:00 UTC 6 October
Geographic Focus: Belgium
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: ON: RS, serial no and ON Section; non-ON: RS and serial no
QSO Points: 3 points per QSO
Multipliers: Each UBA Section
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 20 October 2019
E-mail logs to: ubaon@uba.be
Mail logs to: Welters Leon, ON5WL, Borgstraat 80, B-2580 Beerzel, Belgium
Find rules at:
http://www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules/on-contest

Peanut Power QRP Sprint
22:00 - 23:59 UTC 6 October
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Goober: 1 W CW/2 W SSB Portable; Salted: 5 W CW/10 W SSB Portable; Boiled: 1 W CW/2 W SSB Home; Roasted: 5 W CW/10 W SSB Home; Raw: >5 W CW/>10 W SSB Home or Portable
Exchange: RS(T), state, province or country and peanut no or power output
Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 7 points per QSO with peanut station; 3 points per QSO with non-peanut station
Multipliers: Each state, province or country, once per band per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 20 October 2019
E-mail logs to: pete@nogaqrp.org
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.nogaqrp.org/PeanutPower/rules.pdf

RSGB FT4 Contest Series
19:00 - 19:59 UTC 7 October
Geographic Focus: United Kingdom
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: FT4
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: 100 W; 10 W
Exchange: Signal Report and 4-character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per km between stations (50 points if both stations in same grid); 2 500 points per QSO with G#6XX and G#3DR
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 19:59 UTC 8 October 2019
Upload log at: www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
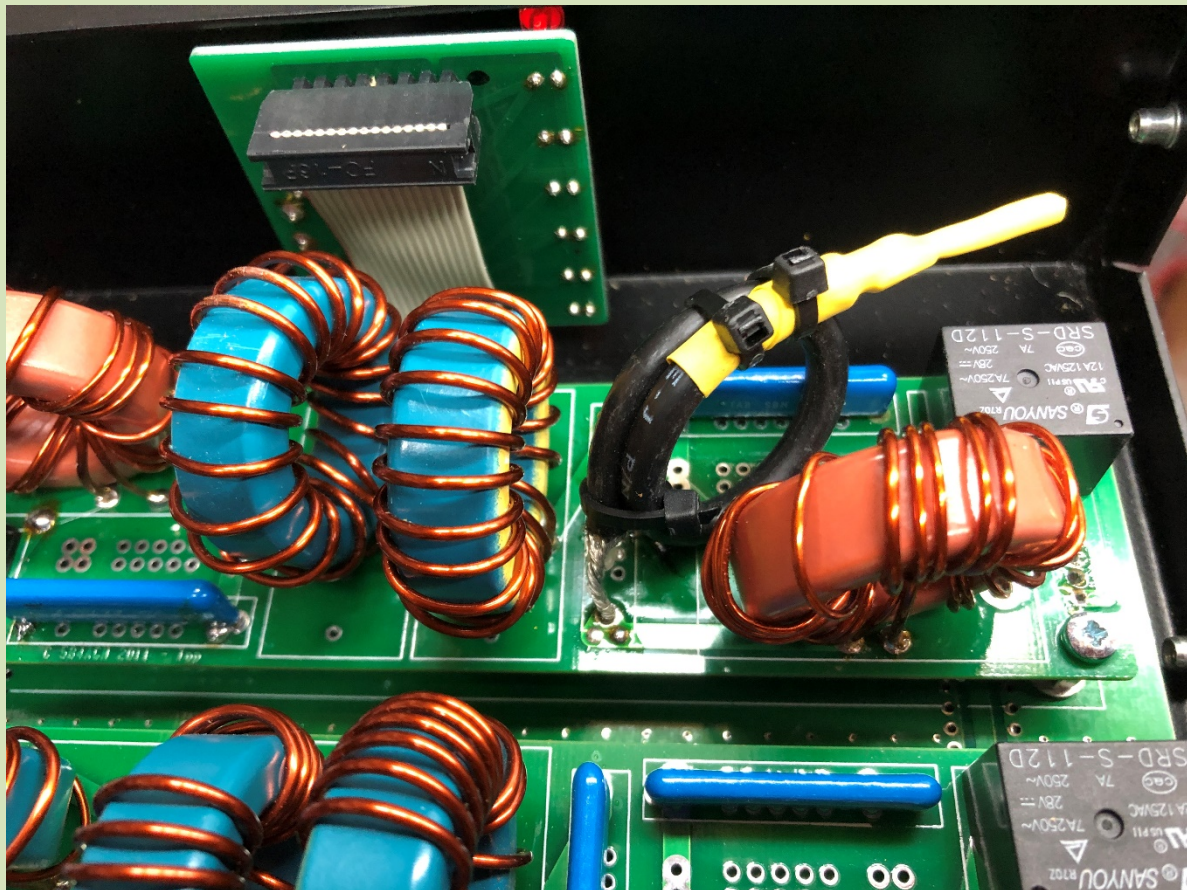www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2019/r80m_ft4.shtml

## Operating Tip

Microphone Type Still Matters. Make sure your microphone matches the radio you want to use it with! This might matter more in a portable operation like ARRL Field Day where people may bring their own headsets. I almost goofed during a recent contest when we had two different brands of radios for two stations in the Washington Salmon Run. One brand exclusively uses electret-type microphone elements, while the other brand can use either dynamic or electret microphone elements with a menu change. I only had one headset with an electret element and ops who brought their own headsets had to be mindful of whether it would work with the radio they were using.

## Repairing a bad capacitor

Jeff, AC0C had a bad capacitor in the 15 meter filter section of his 5B4AGN multiband bandpass filter, because as he puts it, "they have been treated terribly over the years." One way to damage a filter is to use power levels at the limit of the filter into a load that presents a high SWR. Especially a

high-duty mode like RTTY. He did not have the required small 14 pF capacitor, so he trimmed a piece of RG-58 to the required value - coaxial cable exhibits a certain amount of capacitance per unit length. "The repaired 15 m filter runs 1.10:1 or better SWR across the band with an insertion loss of about 0.65 dB." He advises the following if to those who may find themselves in need of doing this same kind of fix: The RG-58 "can be coiled up and secured with some tie wraps." Keep it away from the toroid to minimize interaction as best you can - "a half inch is probably enough to minimize trouble." Jeff uses a L/C meter to measure the capacitance as the piece of cable is trimmed to approach the target value and he leaves the cable about 1/4" long, then trims the braid back to increase the distance between it and the centre conductor. He puts shrink wrap over the end and measures the passband of the filter section with the chassis cover in place.



*Jeff, AC0C used a small length of RG58 coaxial cable to replace a failed capacitor in a bandpass filter. [Jeff Blaine, AC0C, photo]*

## Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 8 October
NAQCC CW Sprint 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 9 October
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 9 October
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 9 October and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 10 October
10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint, 00:01 - 23:59 UTC 10 October
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 11 October
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 11 October
Makrothen RTTY Contest, 00:00 - 08:00 UTC and 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 12 October and 08:00 - 16:00 UTC 13 October

QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 12 October

Nevada QSO Party, 03:00 UTC 12 October to 21:00 UTC 13 October

Oceania DX CW Contest, 08:00 UTC 12 October to 08:00 UTC 13 October

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 12 October to 24:00 UTC 13 October

Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB, 12:00 UTC 12 October to 12:00 UTC 13 October

Pennsylvania QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 12 October to 05:00 UTC 13 October and 13:00 - 22:00 UTC 13 October

Arizona QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 12 October to 06:00 UTC 13 October and 14:00 UTC to 24:00 UTC 13 October

FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint, 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 12 October

South Dakota QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 12 October to 18:00 UTC 13 October

PODXS 070 Club 160 m Great Pumpkin Sprint, 20:00 UTC 12 October to 20:00 UTC 13 October

UBA ON CW Contest, 05:30 - 08:00 UTC 13 October

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 14 October

RSGB 80 m Autumn CW Series, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 14 October

### The Leeches Were Nervous - Brian N9ADG

After speaking at the Society of Midwestern Contesters annual event back in August, I stopped by Craig's, K9CT station location outside of Peoria, Illinois. I grew up in Peoria but had not been in the area in many years. His country neighbours grow corn and other cash crops, while he grows towers and wires. You can read about his extensive tower system, transmitting arrays and receiving antennas on his website, but it is even more impressive to see them!
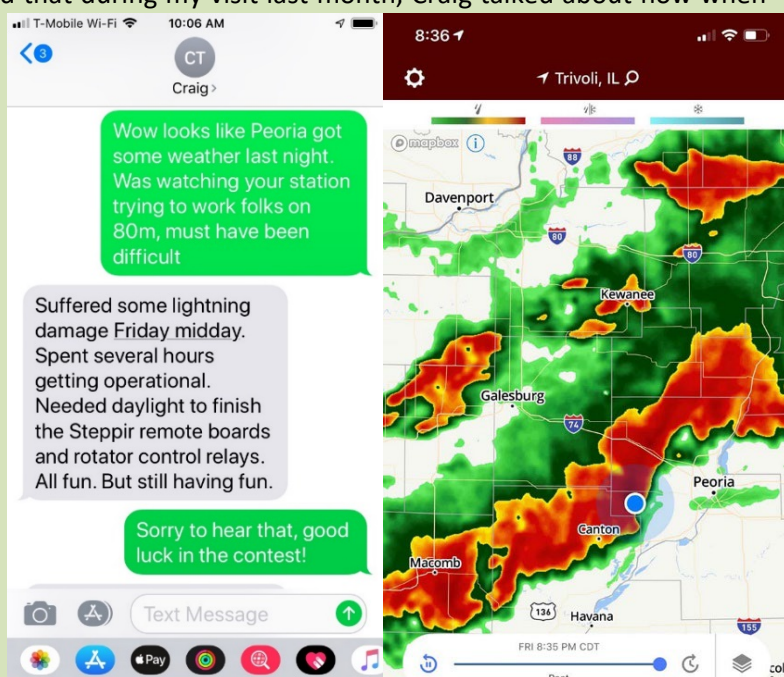
From my location in the Pacific Northwest, Craig always puts in an excellent signal and has superb receiving capabilities, I know if I can hear him, he can hear me. Which made last Friday's CQ WW RTTY 80 metre experience puzzling. The K9CT beacon-like signal was calling CQ on 80 metres and our multi-op called him. He replied to someone else. We waited and when he was done, we called him again.

He responded by calling CQ. That was odd. Odd enough that it was worth discussing among our ops during the contest. Did we have a problem with our transmissions? A check of our spots and RBN seemed to indicate we did not. We called another station in the eastern US and worked them no problem. We went back to K9CT and after a few tries, finally were able to get a contact in the log.

Thinking about this, I recalled that during my visit last month, Craig talked about how when thunderstorms were overhead, they sometimes were accompanied by an intense buzzing that made conditions extra challenging. "Maybe they're having a storm," I commented to the team.

I did not think too much more about it but the next day while checking Facebook, I read that some friends from high school still living in Peoria were commenting on how they were having flooding in their basements. THAT was unusual.

I checked the local Peoria paper - The *Peoria Journal Star*. Front page news: A series of storms had swept through Central Illinois on Friday, dumping up to seven

inches of rain in some places, spawning funnel clouds, lots of lightning... and there were pictures of flooding in places I would never see have that problem. So, I texted Craig. Craig posted a screenshot from his phone on Facebook, showing the line of storms.

Even with today's weather radar, satellites, remote sensing and so on, the localized heavy flooding might not have been predictable. But we have come a long way since the "tempest prognosticators" of the 1800s, which used leeches to help predict the weather by triggering bells with small levers made out of bone. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tempest_prognosticator

The situation inside K9CT during the contest? Serenity and QSOs:



*Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter*